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CLOWN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Health Report for the Year 1944.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Clown Rural District Council

for the Year 1944.

Printed by Order of the Council.

A. H. WEAR, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., B. Hy.,
Medical Officer of Health.

PREFACE.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
CLOWN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, MRS. WOOD AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report on the general Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year 1944.

Unfortunately, owing to war conditions, many matters have had to be left in abeyance, the most urgent being the provision of more houses and the re-conditioning of existing ones.

The health of the district has been good, apart from a widespread but mild epidemic of scarlet fever which occurred during the latter part of the year.

Every effort has been made to secure the immunisation of Infants for diphtheria and to maintain the high level of immunisation in School Children.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Members and Officials of the Council for their continued interest and support.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WEAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

“ Dale Close,”

100, Chesterfield Road South,
Mansfield.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (Acres)	...	...	...	...	13,436
Population mid-year (Registrar-General) 1944					17,590
Rateable value 1944	...	...	...	...	£73,207
Sum represented by a Penny-rate 1944				...	£283

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

As stated in previous reports, the social conditions are mainly industrial, the chief occupation of the inhabitants being coal mining and agriculture.

During the last twelve months the number of evacuees in the district have diminished still further.

The housing shortage is the largest and most difficult social problem. New houses are most urgently required.

CHIEF CAUSES OF INVALIDITY IN THE DISTRICT.

In 1944 there were 201 adults and 159 children treated for scabies. In 1943 the figures were 290 adults and 322 children. This is a very welcome drop in the number of cases and is an encouraging sign that the efforts made to stamp out the disease are beginning to have effect.

75 Cases of verminous heads were treated as compared with 90 for the previous year, these were all of school age.

The Disinfestation Centre is situated at Poolsbrook, in the Staveley U.D., and the cost of its maintenance is shared by the following authorities :—Chesterfield Rural, Staveley Urban, Dronfield Urban, Clay Cross Urban and Clowne Rural. The cost for this district works out at a $\frac{1}{4}$ d. rate.

Dr. Graham, M.O.H. for Chesterfield, claims that one treatment for scabies by 20% benzyl benzoate emulsion is sufficient and that the number of relapses is only .92%. One treatment in his opinion will cure 99% of the cases. Clothing and bedding are not disinfected.

Nutrition among school children and toddlers still remains satisfactory. The provision of extra milk and mid-day meals in the schools is a great help.

The position is not so satisfactory amongst adults, the daily diet is monotonous and protein and fat are scanty. The position is difficult where the families are small, unless the wage earners can obtain a mid-day meal at a canteen or restaurant.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births :—	Legitimate	378	189	189	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 22.7
	Illegitimate	23	10	13	
Stillbirths ...	...	...	13	9	4
					Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 31.40
	Total.	M.	F.		
DEATHS.	174	96	78		Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 9.8

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	—
No. 30	Other puerperal causes	—	—
	Total	...	—

DEATH-RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	59.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	63.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	68.9

Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1944.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION						Rate per 1000 Live Births
		All causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping-cough	
England and Wales ...	17.6	0.50	11.6	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.12
126 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ...	20.3	0.64	13.7	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.10
148 Smaller Towns (1931 adjusted Populations 25,000—50,000)	20.9	0.61	12.4	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.03
London	15.0	0.42	15.7	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.04
CLOWN R.D.	22.7	0.73	9.8	0.00	—	0.00	0.05	0.00
								2.2
								59

126 County Boroughs & Great
Towns, including London ...

148 Smaller Towns (1931 adjusted
Populations 25,000—50,000)

London

CLOWN R.D.

Diarrhoea and
Enteritis,
under 2 years

Total
deaths
under
1 year

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

No changes or developments have been made in connection with laboratory facilities. The number of types of specimens dealt with by the County Laboratories were as follows :—

Enterica :—

			Pos.	Neg.	Total
Typhoid, Para-Typhoid A & B			—	—	—
Gaertner, Dysentery, etc.			—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	7	57	64
Ptthisis	...	...	3	27	30
Water	...	...	1	—	1

Milk :

T.B. Inoculation sent from Ministry of Agriculture	...	...	—	—	—
T. B. Inoculation, Routine Samples			—	—	—
Bacterial Content, Routine Samples			—	—	—
Bacillus Coli, Routine Samples	...		—	—	—
Miscellaneous	1	3	4
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			12	87	99
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In 1900 the Infantile mortality was 150 per 1,000 live births and in 1944 it was only 59.6. The decline can be due to several causes such as :—

- a. Higher wages for workers.
- b. More knowledge of nutrition among the population with consequent less rickets.
- c. Lesser families due to a fall in the birth rate. This brings about an improvement in social conditions as the mother is able to look after the children and parents have more money to spend on them.
- d. As there are fewer children there is less danger of infection spreading in a family.
- e. Wholesale abolition of pails and privy middens, which was carried out after the last war, was largely the reason why deaths from diarrhoea in infants diminished to such a great extent.
- f. Improved care of the milk supply.
- g. The death-rate of infectious diseases in infants has dropped very considerably.
- h. More care of mothers and babies at confinements at home and in Maternity Hospitals by qualified midwives. In the old days there were many unqualified midwives, some of whom had very primitive ideas of asepsis.

Deaths from :—

Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	I
Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	32
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	43
Violent Deaths	...	...	...	...	5
Road Accidents	...	...	...	...	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Clowne water is supplied from Manton Colliery in the Worksop R. D. It is conveyed from there to a reservoir in the Worksop area known as "Sparken Hill," and from this reservoir the water goes to Hodthorpe Pumping Station where it is chlorinated. At this point it enters the Clown Rural District. It is pumped from Hodthorpe to Barlborough reservoir from which it is distributed over the whole area.

The following is the result of a sample of water taken from the main supply on 29th December, 1944.

Plate Counts :—

Number of colonies in agar after 48 hours incubation at 37 C	...	...	9 per ml.
Number of colonies in agar after 72 hours incubation at 20 C	...	...	42 per ml.

Presumptive coliform Count :—

Probable number of coliform bacilli	...	50 per 100 ml.
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Differential coliform Test :—

Probable number of faecal B. Coli	...	Nil per 100 ml.
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Organisms present appear to belong to the intermediate aerogenes cloacæ or to irregular types.

Bacteriologically the sample of water is of doubtful hygienic quality for drinking purposes.

The presence of this group of organisms indicate a minor degree of pollution which at any time may become serious and further steps should be taken to ensure the purity of the supply.

On receiving the above report I communicated with the Surveyor who informed me that the water was not being chlorinated.

In an endeavour to find the cause of the pollution, three samples were taken on 10th January, 1945, and another three on 18th January, 1945, from different points on the water system. As a result of these analysis it was found that the water at the source (Manton Colliery) was satisfactory. The other samples showed slight contamination of the supply either in Sparken Hill Reservoir or at some point between there and Clown Council Offices. The Surveyor arranged for .25 parts per million of chlorine to be added to the water at Hodthorpe Pumping Station, and since then the water has been further analysed, the latest samples being completely satisfactory.

The Council agreed that samples should be taken quarterly.

The proportion of dwelling-houses connected to the public water mains are as follows :—

- a. Direct to the houses 98%
- b. By means of stand pipes 2%

Some of the farms in the area rely chiefly on wells and recently, owing to the continued dry weather, they suffered from an acute shortage. Schemes are now well in hand to supply water to a number of these farms.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No new sewers have been laid.

Closet Conversions.

No conversions were carried out during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses disinfected :—

a. Council Houses	...	2
b. Other Houses	...	5

HOUSING.

No Houses were erected during the Year.

The Council's first year's housing programme includes 220 permanent houses and 50 temporary bungalows.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 74 cowsheds, dairies and milkshops, and 138 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspector and his staff.

The National Milk Scheme continues to be popular. It is very essential if the nutrition of the children and expectant mothers is to be maintained, that they should have extra milk at a cheap rate

Meat and Other Foods.

Meat is still slaughtered and distributed from the Public Abattoir at Chesterfield. Owing to the shortage of feeding stuffs, etc., much of the English meat is below pre-war quality. The method of distribution from the abattoir to the local butchers is not satisfactory, the meat often being conveyed in open lorries.



Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1944.

11

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases notified.										Total Cases notified in each Parish of the District.				Total Details												
	At Ages—years										Whitwell	Creswell	Clowen	Bartborough	65 & Upwards	45 to 65	35 to 45	20 to 35	15 to 20	10 to 15	5 to 10	4 to 5	3 to 4	2 to 3	1 to 2	Under 1	
Small-pox
Cholera
Plague	7	1	1	4	...	1	...	6	1	...	7
Diphtheria	2	1	1	5	...	1	...	2	...	45	24
Erysipelas	123	...	...	...	...	...	3	10	44	40	14	5	...	23	31	45	102	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	
Malaria	
Enteric Fever	
Encephalitis Lethargica	
Puerperal Fever	
Puerperal Pyrexia	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
Poliomylitis	1	2	5	2	2	...	5	3	4	...	10	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	2	4	3	...	3	...	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	9	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	2	4	4	3	3	...	7	8	...	2	...	9	...	...	...
Pneumonia	17	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	14	1	...	2	2	1	8	...	4	...	...	...	3	2	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	62	7	2	11	7	6	25	4	...	...	...	...	30	29	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles		
Whooping Cough		
Totals	...	246	10	4	17	12	18	80	48	18	15	12	8	4	30	87	84	45	109	23	...	...	...	...	...

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

Only 7 notifications were received and all the patients were removed to hospital. There were no deaths.

The percentage of children immunised at the end of 1944 was toddlers 54 per cent. and school children 81 per cent. compared with 43 per cent. and 84 per cent. at the end of December, 1943. Immunisation has been most beneficial not only in diminishing the number of cases of diphtheria in the district, but in abolishing the death rate. Immunised children may catch the disease but the attack is very mild.

It is interesting to note that diphtheria has been the leading epidemic disease of the war on the European continent, it has been especially prevalent in Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Finland. It was one of the most important causes of fatal illness in the German Army. The contrast with England where the disease has been actually reduced is most striking.

Scarlet Fever.

123 Cases were notified, of which 102 were removed to hospital. As you will see from the table cases occurred in all parishes.

The cause of the spread was due to the mild character of the disease and as a result patients attended school and work almost up to the appearance of the rash. The Infection was mostly by direct contact. There was no evidence of the infection being spread by the milk supply. In May the disease became prevalent at Marlborough Hall School, and it was found necessary to close the school for a fortnight. In December the disease became very prevalent in Creswell Infants School, and it was found advisable to close this school the fortnight prior to the Christmas holiday. The majority of the cases were school children. There were no deaths.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

14 Measles and 62 Whooping Cough notifications were received.

Pneumonia.

17 Cases were notified, of which 8 were from the Clown parish.

Outbreak of Food Poisoning.

On Thursday, March 9th, I was called to the Clowne Senior Girls School, to investigate an outbreak of food poisoning. About 30 girls between 9 and 11 years of age were effected with colic, dizziness, sickness and fainting attacks. A few of them were taken ill on Thursday morning, but the majority did not show symptoms until the early afternoon. Five members of the staff were absent with food poisoning. The symptoms in the adults lasted two days.

The attack appears to have been confined to the school. This view is supported by the fact that no member of the staff or child reported home contact cases either previous to or subsequent to the outbreak. As there was no secondary cases in the homes, then the infectivity of the disease must have been extremely low and would appear to indicate a non-bacterial cause of the outbreak.

The only person outside the school to be effected was the butcher boy and he was the only member of a household of six to be affected. He never had any food or drink at school.

Two faecal samples collected at the time from the scholars were negative for pathogenic organisms. Specimens of meals served at the school on the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were examined at the Laboratory at Lincoln and found to be negative.

The source of the outbreak was not discovered, but I am of the opinion that it was a toxin. The children recovered very quickly. The school was closed for the weekend and, when re-opened on the Monday, practically all the scholars were back and appeared to be quite well.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from this disease during the year :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0						
1						
5						
10	1		2			
15	1	1				
20	3			1		
25	2		2			
35	2				1	
45	2			1	3	
55				1		
65 and upwards								
Totals	...	11	1	4	5	7	3	3

The phthisis death-rate is .57 per 1,000 of the population.

The following table gives the number of pulmonary cases notified during the war years.

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Phthisis death rate
1939	8	.45
1940	15	.84
1941	13	.43
1942	9	.05
1943	14	.78
1944	12	.57

It will be noted that the number of cases and the death rate has remained much the same during the last six years.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Name of Inspector, W. J. Gallagher.

Area of district, 13,436 acres.

Estimated No. of Houses, 4,961.

New houses erected 1944: (a) By Local Authority—Nil.
 (b) By private enterprise—Nil.

Number of Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.	Number of Informal Notices served by Sanitary Inspector.	Number of Legal Notices served by Local Authority	Number of Nuisances abated with or without Notice.
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CLOSETS AND ASHPITS:

Defective privies, pail closets & ashpits (not for conversion)	181	106	2	139
Conversion of privies into w.c's	—	—	—	—
Conversion of pail closets into w.c's	...	—	—	—
Conversion of privies into pail closets	...	—	—	—
Defective water closets	...	29	24	24
Provision of additional water closets	...	—	—	—
Provision of portable ashbins	47	47	—	47
Dirty closets	...	8	5	5

DRAINAGE:

No disconnection of waste pipe	—	—	—	—
Defective waste pipe, traps, inlets and drains	...	49	36	36
Drains obstructed	...	127	104	104

OTHER DEFECTS:

Paving of courts and yards	...	1	1	—	1
Roofs, eaves spouts and down spouts	...	38	27	—	27
Sinks	...	5	2	—	2
Insufficient ventilation	...	—	—	—	—

	Number of Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector	Number of Informal Notices served by Sanitary Inspector	Number of Legal Notices served by Local Authority	Number of Nuisances abated with or without Notice.
Windows	...	39	22	—
Dampness	...	46	29	—
Water in cellars	...	3	1	—
Water supply	...	8	3	2
Over-crowding	...	—	—	—
Foul condition of houses	...	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations	...	—	—	—
Animals improperly kept	...	—	—	—
Pigsties	...	12	3	3
Smoke Nuisances	...	—	—	—
Urinals	...	7	1	1
Nuisances not specified above	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	600	411	2 428

	Number on Register	Inspections made	Notices served	Nuisances abated with or without Notice
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	74	138	3	2
Bakehouses	...	3	31	—
Slaughter-houses	...	1	236	1
Offensive Trades	...	—	—	—
Common Lodging-houses	...	—	—	—
Totals	...	78	405	4 3

W. J. GALLAGHER,

Sanitary Inspector.

